

Clinical Research Enhancement Act;
Twenty-First Century Research Laboratories
Act;

Cardiac Arrest Survival Act;
Rural Access to Emergency Devices Act;
Lupus Research and Care Act;
Prostate Cancer Research and Protection
Act;

Organ Procurement Organization Certifi-
cation Act;

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinical Re-
search and Training; and,

Alzheimer's Disease Clinical Research and
Training.

We are also sending to the President the
Medicare, Medicaid, and S-CHIP Benefits Im-
provement & Protection Act. This Act in-
creases preventive benefits, including glau-
coma screening, medical nutrition therapy,
colonoscopy, and biennial pap smears, limits
beneficiary exposure to hospital outpatient
charges, increases payments to providers
under the Medicare and Medicaid programs,
adjusts the allocation formula under the State
Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP),
and provides \$475 million for the Ricky Ray
Hemophilia Trust Fund.

These are real and meaningful bipartisan
accomplishments.

There are other important bills we have not
been able to reach consensus on. That should
not be an excuse for dismissing the many
public health accomplishments of the Repub-
lican-led Congress. Nor should we easily for-
get the failure of the Hillary-care Congress.

We have heard that Republicans are not for
a real patients bill of rights. That is false. In-
deed, the distortion from AL GORE and the
White House is the problem. Republicans
have voted for legislation both to increase ac-
cess to insurance and to provide for HMO re-
form. The Vice President erroneously claimed
in his last debate that Republicans opposed
an enforceable, independent external review
board. He also claimed that Republicans op-
posed emergency room and access to special-
ists provisions. That is nonsense and distorts
our record.

Republicans have voted for legislation that
provides an enforceable independent external
review board for benefits denials. This will
make sure health care professionals make
medical decisions and that we don't resort to
unnecessary litigation.

Republicans have also supported the patient
protections which included the emergency
room issue and access to specialist issues Mr.
GORE mentioned. We have basic bipartisan
agreement on these issues and could easily
have such legislation alone.

Let's look at the remaining disagreements.
The White House and the trial lawyers want
uncapped liability and litigation. Employers
around the country are opposed to these fea-
tures of Norwood-Dingell because they would
increase litigation, drive up costs, and would
force many employers to drop health insur-
ance. That is the opposite of what we want.

We are also concerned about interfering
with State patient protection programs. We
need to make sure that States can implement
their own programs where they want to with-
out federal interference and disruption to pro-
grams that are already in place. Norwood-Din-
gell does not address this problem and places

a huge implementation burden on the Federal
government. We need to find a middle road on
this.

Finally, we cannot understand the failure of
the White House and Democrat leadership to
support provisions which provide choice, ac-
cess and tax deductions to help increase the
number of people with health insurance. There
are over 40 million uninsured people in Amer-
ica. The Republican-led Congress has passed
serious proposals to address this problem and
they are being ignored by the White House.

When Democrats sent a letter to Senator
NICKLES in early summer saying that they
would no longer meet with him in private con-
ference, that was not a good sign. Obviously,
you can't negotiate through the press and you
can't negotiate if you do not meet.

The plain fact is that the Republican-led
Congresses have been energetic, productive,
and responsible on public health. The many
bipartisan accomplishments are a tribute to
both Democrat and Republicans. We have en-
acted legislation that improves Americans' ac-
cess to quality health care. Under our pro-
posals, our country's commitment to basic
medical research has been expanded and our
promises to provide high quality to seniors and
the most vulnerable in our society kept. Distor-
tion of this record is not helpful and will only
risk jeopardizing future gains.

NATIONAL LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Lupus is
a chronic, autoimmune disease which causes
inflammation of various parts of the body.

Lupus is not rare. In fact, it is more preva-
lent than AIDS, sickle cell anemia, cerebral
palsy, multiple sclerosis and cystic fibrosis
combined. Lupus affects 1 out of 185 Amer-
icans, and almost 30% of the Lupus cases in
Florida are found within my South Florida re-
gion.

This month we celebrate National Lupus
Awareness Month.

And, I congratulate The Lupus Foundation
of America for its work on patient education,
and dedication to raise funds for research.

I especially congratulate J. Reeve Bright,
Chairman of the Board of the Lupus Founda-
tion of America and President of the South-
east Florida region; Jack McAllister, the Exe-
cutive Director; Jackie Brown, and all who
helped arrange an educational symposium in
my district this month.

The House passed a bill that provides re-
search and services to fight Lupus. As a co-
sponsor, I thank my dear colleague, Con-
gresswoman CARRIE MEEK, for the Lupus leg-
islation and for her dedication in seeing it
through.

This represented a great victory in women's
health care, and it is our wish that this triumph
will generate countless benefits for American
men and women who suffer from Lupus.

CHINA AND PNTR: SUCCESS STORIES NEEDED

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, one of the
truly momentous decisions reached by this
Congress was to approve Permanent Normal
Trade Relations with China. Supporters of
PNTR worked very hard to achieve this out-
come, which held out so much promise for the
development of stronger trade and business
ties between China and the United States.
Now, the major challenge facing both coun-
tries will be to show positive results that justify
such extraordinary efforts and faith in the fu-
ture.

Like many of my colleagues, I voted for
PNTR and view with hope the potential for
mutual benefits. For that reason, it concerns
me to learn of examples where American
companies have encountered unexpected dif-
ficulties in trying to do business in China. One
such distressing case of which I am aware in-
volves Panda Energy. Panda is a Dallas-
headquartered company with a significant gas-
fired cogeneration power plant located in Roa-
noke Rapids, North Carolina, within my Con-
gressional district. Based upon an earlier
agreement reached with the local Chinese
government, in 1995, Panda began construc-
tion of a major, private, foreign-invested plant
near Tangshan in Hebei Province. unfortu-
nately, while that facility is now completed and
ready to commence generating electricity, it is
still not operational. Why? Because the local
government has failed to honor its agreement
to grant a reasonable tariff computed on a ne-
gotiated formula. The situation is even more
complicated and troubling in its implications,
because construction of the facility was fi-
nanced through the U.S. capital markets in
good faith reliance on this agreement. Unless
a fair tariff is granted soon, the bonds are in
danger of default, putting at financial risk not
only the investors but also the company.

Mr. Speaker, Panda's experience in China
is disappointing and contrary to the spirit of
PNTR. Therefore, I would urge the Beijing
government and its Ambassador to the U.S.,
His Excellency Li Zhao Xing, to review this sit-
uation carefully and do everything possible to
find a fair and workable solution. It is not too
late to avoid an unnecessarily negative prece-
dent that could undermine high hopes raised
by passage of the PTNR legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on October 28,
2000, I was unavoidably absent when the
House voted on "Approving the Journal", H.J.
Res. 118, "Further Continuing Appropriations
for FY 2001", and two Motions to Instruct on
H.R. 4577.

Had I been present, I would have voted
"aye" on "Approving the Journal" (rollcall vote